

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-02 SY-05 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /025 W

----- 110779

R 181412Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 086

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 7072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: ARREST OF PHALANGIST IN U.S.

1. FOLLOWING REPORT IS FROM JOHN KHAWAND, A LEBANESE CITIZEN WHO WAS/IS (?) A CONTRACT EMPLOYEE OF FBO IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF BEIRUT CHANCERY. KHAWAND WISHED INFORMATION PASSED TO EMBASSY BEIRUT (BAQUET) FOR "INFORMAL OPINION" FROM EMBASSY ON MATTER.

2. IN SEPTEMBER OR EARLY COBER, KHAWAND WAS CONTACTED IN EAST BEIRUT BY FUAD ROUKOZ OF PHALANGE MILITARY HEAD-QUARTERS WHO WONDERED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD HELP WITH REGARD TO A PHALANGE PARTY LEADER ARRESTED IN U.S. FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS. INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION, JOSEPH SFEIR, HAD BEEN IN U.S. FOR TRAINING AS COMMERCIAL PILOT AND, WHILE IN CALIFORNIA, HAD BOUGHT TWELVE PISTOLS TO BRING BACK TO LEBANON. ENROUTE HOME HE STOPPED OVER IN CLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, TO VISIT FRIEND JOSEPH CHIHA. WHILE MEETING WITH SOME FRIENDS IN CHIHA'S APARTMENT, POLICE RAIDED APARTMENT, ARRESTED SFEIR AND CONFISCATED PISTOLS. ACCORDING TO ROUKOZ, HE IS STILL IN PRISON WITH BAIL SET AT \$100,000.

3. CHIHA'S ADDRESS IF P.O. BOX 1419, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, 77840 (TELEPHONE: 713-693-5537).

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4. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT OR BEIRUT MAY HAVE ON THIS MATTER.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: INFORMATION CONTROL, ARRESTS
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Draft Date: 18 OCT 1976
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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